

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 04163

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4
TAGS: SCUL, SHUM, UR, PINT
SUBJECT: STATUS OF BAPTIST ACTIVIST VINS FAMILY

REF: MOSCOW 2577

1. TWO ELDER SISTERS OF PETR VINS CALLED AT ADVANCE PARTY IN KIEV ON FEBRUARY 21. THEY GAVE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION.
2. PETR VINS WAS REARRESTED IN KIEV FEBRUARY 15 AND APPARENTLY AGAIN CHARGED WITH PARASITISM. NO FAMILY MEMBER HAD YET BEEN ABLE TO SEE HIM OR LEARN FORMALLY OF THE CHARGES. VINS HAS NOT BEEN WORKING.
3. PRIOR TO THE REARREST OF PETR, SOURCES HAD VISITED KIEV OVIR AND RECEIVED FAVORABLE IMPRESSION ON PROPOSAL THAT THEY AND PETR EMIGRATE. THEY ALSO GAINED IMPRESSION THAT THEIR FATHER, GEORGIY VINS, WOULD BE RELEASED AND ALLOWED TO LEAVE WITH WIFE AND TWO YOUNGER CHILDREN THEREAFTER.

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4. THE TWO SISTERS HAD JUST RETURNED FROM A TRIP TO YAKUTSK WHERE THEY HAD MET WITH THEIR FATHER GEORGIY. THEY STATED THE ELDER VINS WAS IN BETTER HEALTH AND IN GOOD SPIRITS. HE WAS ENCOURAGED AT THE PROSPECT OF THE EMIGRATION OF PETR AND THE TWO SISTERS. SIGNIFICANTLY, THE ELDER VINS HAD SIGNIFIED HIS WILLINGNESS TO EMIGRATE.

5. COMMENT: WE CAN FIND NO EXPLANATION FOR YOUNG VINS' REARREST, EXCEPT FOR POSSIBLE MIXED SIGNALS OR DISAGREEMENT AMONG RELEVANT SOVIET SECURITY OFFICIALS. IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN IF OUTCRY OF BAPTISTS AND OTHERS IN WEST, WHICH VINS CREDITED WITH ROLE IN HIS EARLIER RELEASE, WILL HELP TO SPRING HIM AGAIN. AS THIS IS SECOND PARASITISM ARREST, HOWEVER, ANOTHER POSSIBILITY IS THAT SOVIETS WILL NOW TAKE HARDER LINE WITH YOUNG VINS. KAP IS WATCHING THE SIGNALS, BUT NOTES THAT VINS' SISTERS CAME TO HOTEL MOSKVA WITHOUT APPARENT DIFFICULTY. TOON

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